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### Remains of the Primitive Elephant found in Grinnell, Iowa

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excavating an enormous well to supply the water-tanks of the Iowa Central Railroad, came upon certain badly broken mammoth bones, in the drift clay and pebbles, at a depth of twenty feet. All the bones, save a well-worn molar, were badly comminuted, and all the surroundings lead inevitably to the conclusion that they were transported with the drift in which they occurred. In addition to the small though complete molar, there were limb bones, a scapula, ribs, and a small tusk some five or six inches in diameter. The tusk, however, extended into the sides of the well in such a way that it could not be taken out without danger of a cave-in, and was left. The scapula, when found, was fairly complete, but was almost destroyed in the taking-out, little beside the thickened parts in the region of the glenoid fossa remaining. The few limb bones, owing to their fragmentary condition, coupled with the inexperience of the workmen in digging out such remains, were almost totally destroyed; the proximal end of a tibia, a fragment of the shaft of a femur, and the casts in clay of the medullary cavities of the same, being about all that remains to show for them at all. Although it is by no means uncommon to find skeletons of mammoths close to one another, yet it is less so to find them so far below the surface. ERWIN H. BARBOUR.

Iowa College, Grinnell, Io., Oct. 15.

#### Remains of the Primitive Elephant found in Grinnell, Io.

HOWEVER common the remains of the mammoth may have become, there is always more or less interest attached to the discovery of each new individual, however fragmentary, or wherever found. According to vague rumors, the first evidence of the mammoth's remains in Grinnell came to light so early in the history of the town, that it has passed into obscurity; and the bones, treasured for a time as private relics, have simply disappeared, no one knows just when or how. It is not certain whether this doubtful specimen was a distinct individual, or part of the one subsequently found near the same place. The last one alluded to was found in 1884, while breaking ground for the Eagle Block, on the north-east corner of Main Street and Fourth Avenue. This animal, a large adult male, is represented by a tusk (eight feet long and nine inches in diameter), several grinders, lower jaw, and part of zygomatic arch, preserved in the museum of Iowa College. These bones occurred about five feet below the surface, and were in an exceedingly soft and perishable condition, as similarly situated remains usually are; but, owing to the skill of Professor H. W. Parker, the tusk and teeth especially were so well fixed with hardening-mixtures, that they were removed in an exceptionally fine condition. The other bones were naturally more fragmentary. The mandible is represented by a large fragment, including the entire symphyseal region, the left ramus being complete as far as the angle. No limb bones in whole or part were taken out with these fragments, although many bones were seen in the clay passing under the walls of an adjoining block, endangering its foundations if dug out, and consequently left there. Doubtless when other excavations are made on the lots immediately adjoining, other bones will be found. Judging by the condition of the parts now at hand, it is not unreasonable to hope that a skeleton nearly complete may yet be unearthed.

Remains of another *Elephas primigenius* have just come to light, found Oct. 6, 1890, within half a mile of the site of the one of 1884. There is additional interest attached to this one, because of the depth at which it occurred. Workmen, while engaged in